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CLAIMS AS ALLOWED

IN 09/078,946 BSC-177

1. A guide wire comprising:
an elongated core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy and having a length; and
a coil composed of a single material surrounding the entire length of the core.
2. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the nickel-titanium alloy comprises a super-elastic metal.
3. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the nickel-titanium alloy comprises a linear-elastic metal.
4. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the single material comprises a nickel-titanium alloy.
5. The guide wire of claim 4 wherein the nickel-titanium alloy comprises a super-elastic metal.
6. The guide wire of claim 4 wherein the nickel-titanium alloy comprises a linear-elastic metal.
7. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the single material comprises a stainless steel.
8. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the single material comprises a precipitation hardenable alloy.
9. The guide wire of claim 1 further comprising:
a polymer tip surrounding a distal portion of the core.
10. The guide wire of claim 9 wherein the polymer tip comprises a radio-opaque filler whereby a distal tip of the guide wire may be more readily visible under fluoroscopy.
11. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the coil comprises a single strand of wire.
12. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the coil comprises a multi-filar strand.
13. The guide wire of claim 11 wherein the wire further comprises a rectangular cross-section.
14. The guide wire of claim 11 wherein the wire further comprises a circular cross-section.
15. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein the coil further comprises a pitch which varies along the length of the core.

16. The guide wire of claim 15 wherein the pitch of the coil varies such that a distal end of the coil is more flexible than a proximal end of the coil.
17. The guide wire of claim 1 further comprising:
a hypotube, joined to the core and bonded to the coil.
18. The guide wire of claim 1 wherein a bond is formed between the coil and the core.
19. The guide wire of claim 18 wherein the bond comprises a weld bond.
20. The guide wire of claim 18 wherein the bond comprises an adhesive bond.
21. A floppy-tipped guide wire comprising:
a core;
a coil surrounding at least a distal portion of the core, a distal end of the coil extending distal of the distal portion of the core;
a tip bonded to the distal end of the coil; and
a polymeric safety ribbon bonding the distal portion of the core to the tip.

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